

Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, a hearing to receive testimony on the incinerator component at the proposed Advanced Waste Treatment Facility at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and its potential impact on the adjacent Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, has been cancelled.

For further information, please contact Jim O'Toole or Kevin Cark of the committee staff at (202) 224-6969.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 28, for purposes of conducting a joint committee hearing with the Committee on Foreign Relations, which is scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m. The title of this oversight hearing is "America at Risk: U.S. Dependency on Foreign Oil."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Subcommittee on Children and Families, be authorized to meet for a hearing on "Keeping Children Safe from Internet Predators" during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to hold a hearing entitled "Swindling Small Businesses: Toner-Phoner Schemes and Other Office Supply Scams."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Governmental Affairs Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, at 9:30 a.m., for a hear-

ing entitled "Oversight of HCFA's Settlement Policies: Did HCFA Give Favored Providers Sweetheart Deals?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR, WETLANDS, AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President. I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, and Nuclear Safety be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 28, 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing to receive testimony regarding the Administration's budget for the EPA Clean Air programs and the Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands budget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Communications Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, at 9:30 a.m., on broadband deployment in rural areas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY, TERRORISM AND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Technology, Terrorism and Government Information be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, at 10 a.m., in SD-226.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MEASURE READ FOR THE FIRST TIME—S.J. RES. 43

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, there is a joint resolution at the desk which was introduced earlier by Senator COVERDELL and others, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 43) expressing the sense of the Congress that the President of the United States should encourage free and fair elections and respect for democracy in Peru.

Mr. LOTT. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

#### CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN AND REAFFIRMING U.S. POLICY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 99, submitted earlier today by me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 99) congratulating the people of Taiwan for the successful conclusion of Presidential elections on March 18, 2000, and reaffirming United States policy toward Taiwan and the People's Republic of China.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, on March 18 the people of Taiwan went to the polls and chose their next president through a free and fair multiparty election. The winner of a close three-way race, Chen Shui-bian of the Democratic Progressive Party, will be inaugurated in May.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Chen in Washington in 1997 when he was the mayor of Taipei. I was impressed by his political smarts and his commitment to building a more democratic and prosperous Taiwan.

I also found him to be genuinely committed to improving relations with the mainland.

I believe that Taiwan's election provides a fresh opportunity for the people of Taiwan and the people of China to reach out and resolve their differences peacefully through dialog on the basis of mutual respect.

I hope that leaders on both sides of the Strait will seize this opportunity and begin to lay the foundation of trust, goodwill, and understanding which must precede true reconciliation.

The inauguration of Chen will end the virtual monopoly of power the Nationalist Party has exercised for most of the past 50 years. This peaceful transition of power at the top of Taiwan's political system will mark the maturation of their democracy, and it is an event worthy of our profound respect and hearty congratulations.

It was only 13 years ago that Taiwan lifted martial law and ushered in a new period of open political discourse and expanded civil liberty. Prior to that, Taiwan's leaders did not tolerate dissent and moved swiftly and sometimes ruthlessly to silence their critics.

Taiwan's president-elect knows this well, because he got his start in politics as a young crusading lawyer working to promote transparency, freedom of speech, and freedom of assembly.

Taiwan's emergence as a genuine multiparty democracy is a significant development in the long history of China. It is all the more remarkable given the fact that China's leaders in Beijing have done their level best to intimidate Taiwan's voters and prevent them from exercising this fundamental right.

I cannot help but wonder how average Chinese on the mainland must view Taiwan's remarkable transformation. On the one hand, the people of China have a deep devotion to national unity and apparently are prepared to use force against Taiwan if it were to declare its independence.